March Comes in Like a Lion

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY UMINO CHIKA
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Chapter 26

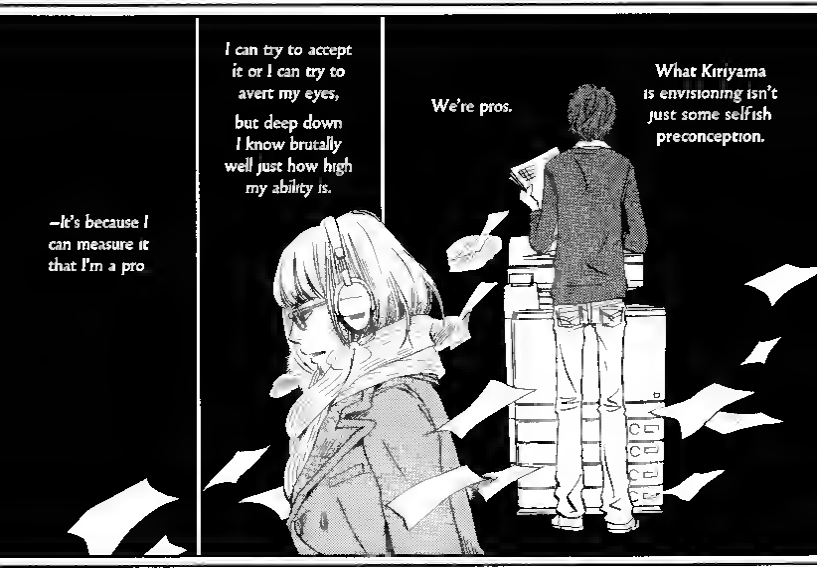
Black River (PART 2)

FROM URANO MASAHIKO'S "5-MOVE CHECKMATE HANDBOOK" (JAPAN SHOGI ASSOCIATION PUBLICATIONS)

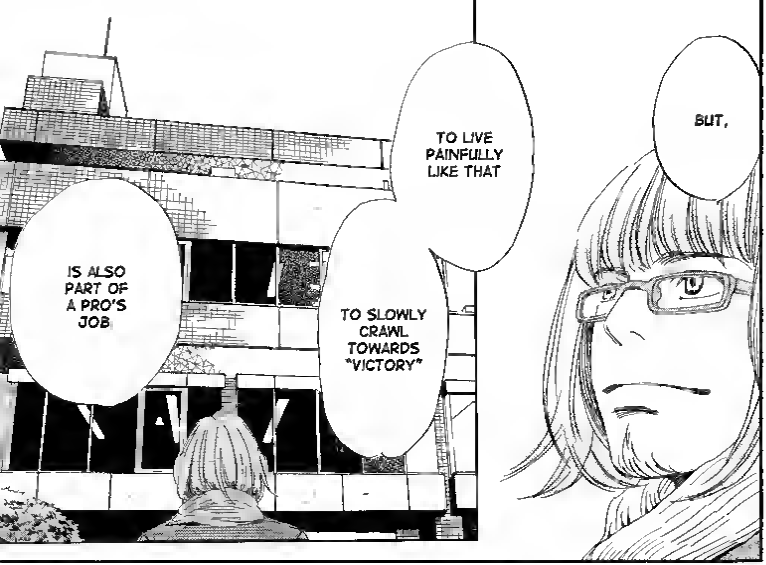
■ N-3D
□ K-3B
■ B-3A
PROMOTES
□ K-1B
THEN
■ R-2C
PROMOTES
■ B-2C
□ K-2B
■ B-1B
PROMOTES
トリプルソフト
SFX: GUSHA (CRUMPLE)
□ K-3A
THEN
■ G-4B
—OKAY. BETTER GET GOING...
ポイ
ガサガサ
SFX: GASASA... (RUSTLE...)

Since then, I've seen Kiriyama just once at the shogi hall.
The kifu that Kiriyama had
dan's games
I thought about talking to him,
–but when I saw that serious look on his face, I decided not to.
He was reading over kifu and making copies of them.
and Gotou 9th dan's games–
of theirs...

SFX: BUSHI BUCHI... (SNAP SNAP...)
Geez...
That shitty brat.
Man, that jerk pisses me off.
Has he completely ignored the possibility that I might win?!
And he thinks he can steamroll Shimada-san?
He's acting like he's raring to go up against Gotou. Who does he think he is?
I'll tell you one thing,
I can't seeing myself beating Gotou and then facing off against Shimada-san
That's the problem.
I understand...
—Yeah.

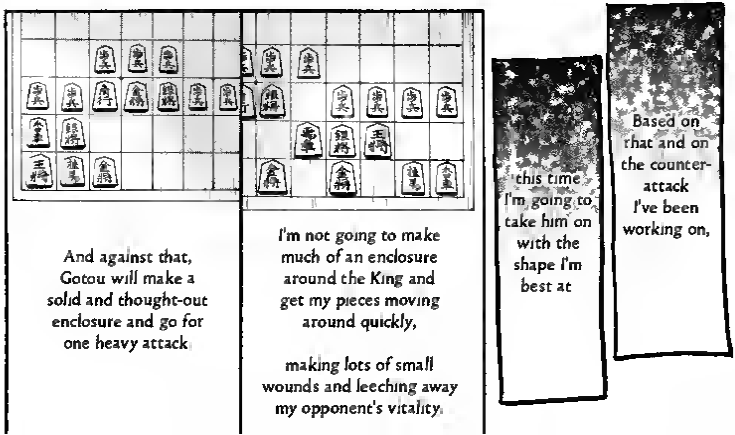

–It's because I can measure it that I'm a pro
I can try to accept it or I can try to avert my eyes,
but deep down I know brutally well just how high my ability is.
We're pros.
What Kiriyama is envisioning isn't just some selfish preconception.

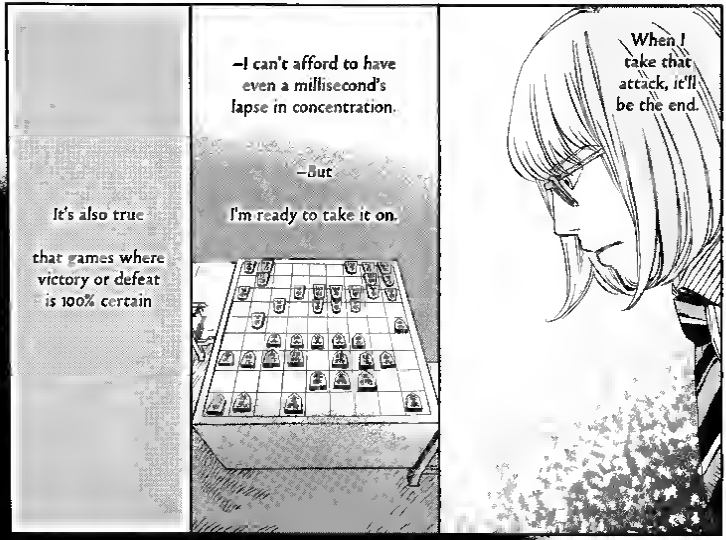
just how it is
And that's
"I'LL TELL YOU ONE THING,
I CAN'T SEE MYSELF BEATING GOTOU AND THEN FACING OFF AGAINST SHIMADA-SAN."
There are people that go in thinking "I don't know if I'll win",
and there are people that think "I could possibly win" or whatever


BUT,
TO LIVE PAINFULLY LIKE THAT
TO SLOWLY CRAWL TOWARDS "VICTORY"
IS ALSO PART OF A PRO'S JOB

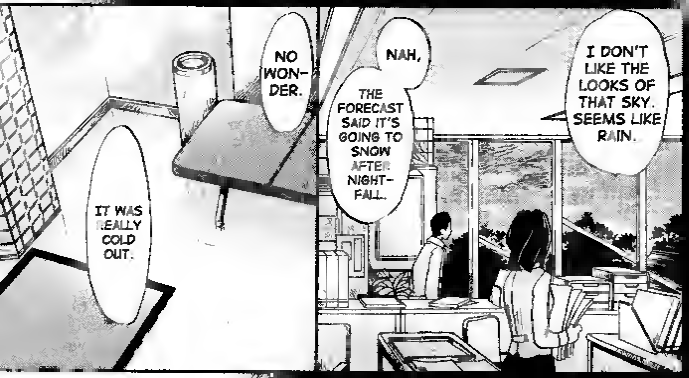
my characteristics are more "light" and "thin".
If Gotou is "heavy" and "hard",
The formations Gotou uses are Static Rook and Anaguma.
So against that, I'll use Kazaguruma
BNY'S NOTES: "KAZAGURUMA", OR "PINWHEEL'S STRATEGY," IS NAMED FOR HOW IT PULLS THE ROOK IN TO THE LOWER RANKS AND CAN GO LEFT AND RIGHT IN A MOUNTAIN-ABOUT MOTION.

SFX: PACHI (TAP)
Last time, in anticipation of Gotou using a solid enclosure to make it a drawn-out battle, I formed a thick enclosure around my King
but I ended up in a formation where the "lightness" I always placed my faith on was was burdened by armour. I wasn't used to it.
And it resulted in my overwhelming defeat.
This is my second time against Gotou-
EVERY-ONE, PLEASE BEGIN.
HAVE GOOD MATCHES.

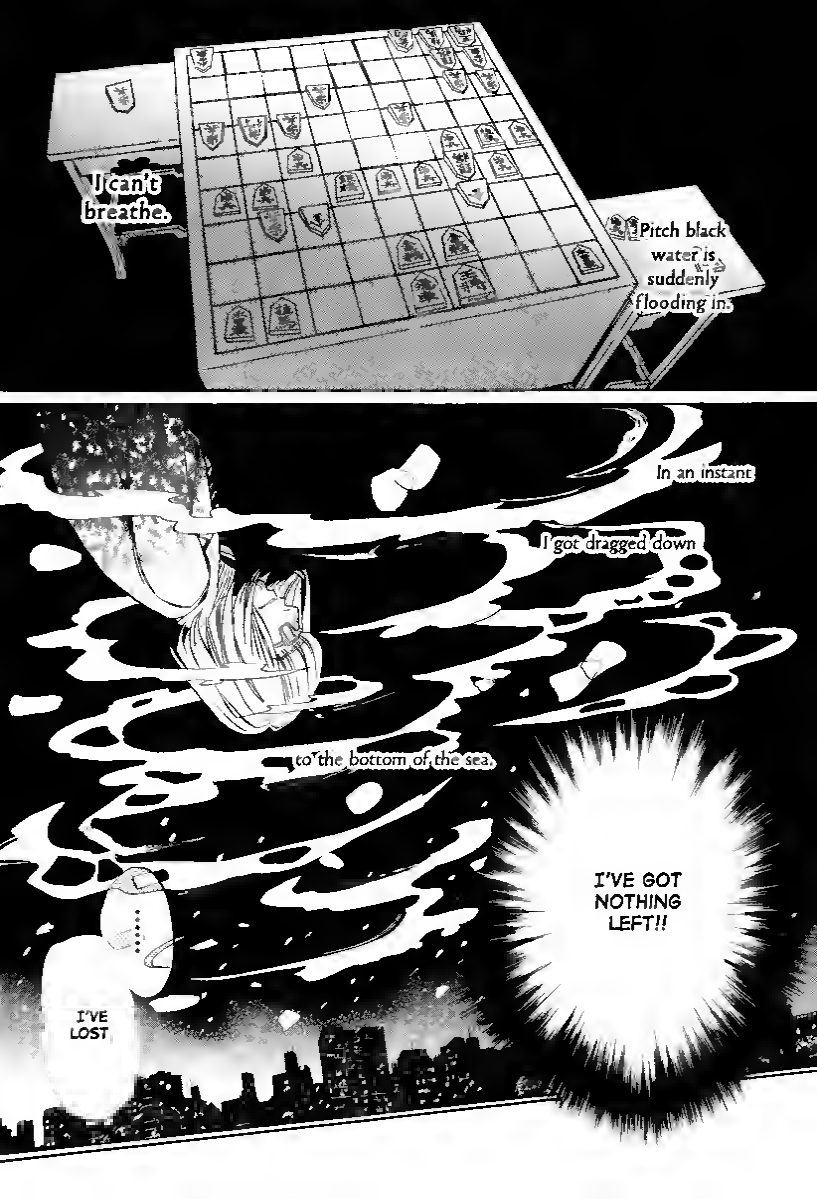

And against that, Gotou will make a solid and thought-out enclosure and go for one heavy attack.
I'm not going to make much of an enclosure around the King and get my pieces moving around quickly,
making lots of small wounds and leeching away my opponent's vitality.
this time I'm going to take him on with the shape I'm best at
Based on that and on the counter-attack I've been working on,


When I take that attack, it'll be the end.
–I can't afford to have even a millisecond's lapse in concentration.
–But
I'm ready to take it on.
It's also true
that games where victory or defeat is 100% certain

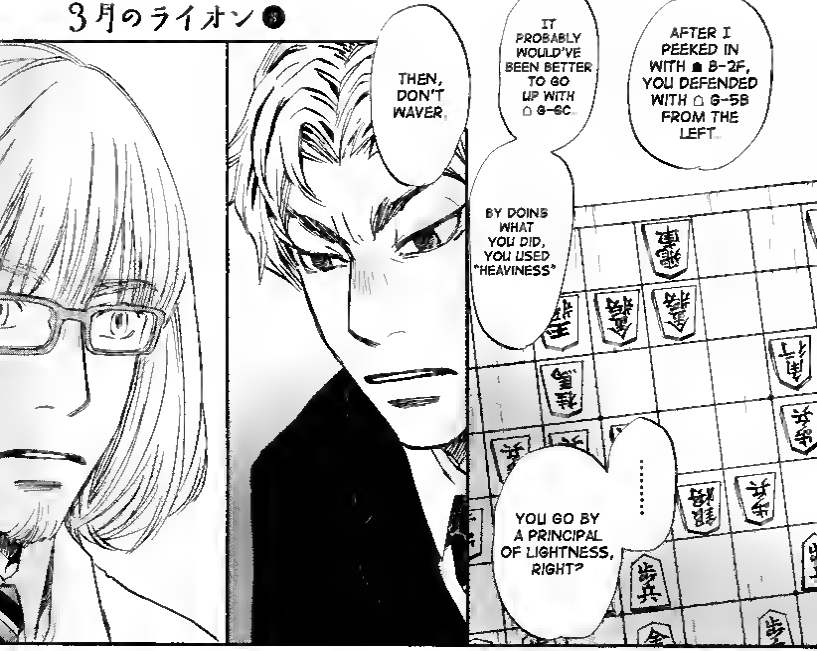
never exist between fellow pros.


I DON'T LIKE THE LOOKS OF THAT SKY. SEEMS LIKE RAIN.
NAH,
THE FORECAST SAID IT'S GOING TO SNOW AFTER NIGHT-FALL.
NO WON-DER.
IT WAS REALLY COLD OUT.

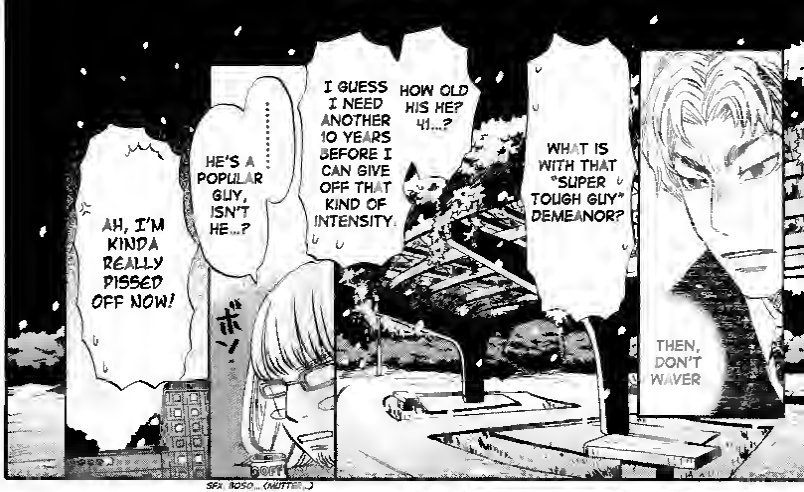
Not only that, but my moves have stopped extending
No matter how much I wound him, he never breaks down
Just how much vitality does he have?
And
Drawing this much blood isn't even enough to faze him.
There aren't any openings I can take advantage of.
He's attacking me with earth-shattering power.
I'm being wrenched open
What does this man see?
He's sacrificing the Rook for the Silver?!
My God.
his attack has begun.
ドド


I can't breathe.
Pitch black water is suddenly flooding in.
In an instant
I got dragged down
to the bottom of the sea.
I'VE GOT NOTHING LEFT!!
I'VE LOST

THAT WAS LIGHT.
常心是
—BUT STILL A LITTLE HEAVY—


THEN, DON'T WAVER.
IT PROBABLY WOULD'VE BEEN BETTER TO GO UP WITH ☖ G-6C.
AFTER I PEEKED IN WITH ☗ 8-2F, YOU DEFENDED WITH ☖ G-5B FROM THE LEFT.
BY DOING WHAT YOU DID, YOU USED "HEAVINESS"
.....
YOU GO BY A PRINCIPAL OF LIGHTNESS, RIGHT?

I REALLY GOT SERVED A FULL COURSE
ON TOP OF RUNNING OUT OF OPTIONS AND LOSING OUTRIGHT
I GOT POSSESSED BY A DEMON.
AUGH..
WHAT A DISGRACE...


THEN, DON'T WAVER
WHAT IS WITH THAT "SUPER TOUGH GUY" DEMEANOR?
HOW OLD HIS HE? 41...?
I GUESS I NEED ANOTHER 10 YEARS BEFORE I CAN GIVE OFF THAT KIND OF INTENSITY.
HE'S A POPULAR GUY, ISN'T HE...?
AH, I'M KINDA REALLY PISSED OFF NOW!
SFX: BOSO... (MUTTER...)

LABEL: TRASH
COURSE A
(IF IT GOES IN)
I'LL GO HAVE A DRINK AT ONEE-CHAN'S SHOP.
RIGHT NOW,
WHAT I'M GOING TO DO IS—
COURSE B
(IF I MISS)
I'LL GO HOME, HIDE UNDER MY FUTON AND CRY MY EYES OUT

WELL THEN...
SFX: GUCHA MEKIYA (CRUSH)

SFX: ZUAS (SHNIP)
SFX: KO (TAP)
SFX: GA (STRIKE)
SFX: BURU BURU BURU... (SHIVER SHIVER SHIVER)
MEO
SIGH...
SFX: GASA GASA (RUSTLE RUSTLE) SFX: GOSO (RUMMAGE)

In deep thought...
I GET IT ALREADY!
AAAAAGH! OH...
What do I do...?!
MEOW
COURSE C
*Find a kitten and look after it.
BE COURSE C?!
COULD THIS
AHH
MEOW
SFX: ZUBO (RAM)
SFX: HEHAHEHA (COLLAPSE)
CRATE: AMAO

AW, GEEZ.
THERE THERE, DON'T CRY.
LET'S START OVER,
BOTH YOU AND I,
FROM SQUARE ONE.
Chapter 26 end